

Prepared by: EAQ
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FINCH

FINCH, ROBERT H. (OH-20) 69 pgs. W/Name Index PRCQ
(m)

Vice-Chairman of Los Angeles County Central Republican Committee, 1954-56;

Administrative Assistant to Vice-President Nixon, 1958-1960;
Campaign Director for
1960 Nixon presidential campaign, 1960; Chairman of senatorial
campaign for George
Murphy, 1964; Lieutenant Governor of California, 1967-1969.

DESCRIPTION:

Personal background; introduction to Richard Nixon; Marshall Plan; conversations with
Nixon regarding House Un-American Committee; work on Nixon campaign in 1956;
administrative assistant for Nixon in 1958; work on Nixon's 1960 presidential campaign
and 1962 California gubernatorial campaign; work on George Murphy's 1964 Senate
campaign; Finch elected Lieutenant Governor of California in 1966; impact of Marshall
Plan on Nixon's political position; House Un-American Committee abuses and Nixon's
suggested remedies; Nixon's decision to run for Senate and campaign against Helen
Gahagan Douglas; Earl Warren's late endorsement of Nixon in campaign; impressions of
Nixon's political potential; Republican party in Los Angeles; Nixon's decision to run for
president in 1960; 1958 California election with William Knowland for Governor and
Goodwin Knight for Senator; Nixon's relationship with Knight and Knowland; party
politics in California; Nixon's preparations for 1960 presidential election; Nelson A.
Rockefeller; Rockefeller's withdrawal from the race; Democratic nomination of John F.
Kennedy; Wisconsin primary; impact of Catholic voters on the election; Nixon and Civil
Rights legislation; Nixon's functions as vice-president to Eisenhower; Herb Klein; Pierre
Salinger; Nixon's opinion polls; Jim Bassett; Nixon's use of advisors; Nixon-Rockefeller
meeting; Barry Goldwater; Goldwater's news conference after Nixon-Rockefeller
agreement; Nixon's platform; Henry Cabot Lodge; Nixon-Eisenhower relationship during
1960 convention; Eisenhower's role in Nixon presidential campaign; debate with
Kennedy; other debates; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Kennedy's handling of the religious
issue; Norman Vincent Peale's speech; Reformation Sunday sermons; Nixon's religious
background; Nixon's refusal to launch attacks on Kennedy's family and personal
background; Kennedy's purported first marriage; Nixon's conduct during the presidential
campaign, Eisenhower's remark about Nixon's role in his administration; Nixon's

opinion of Eisenhower as president and party leader; Finch's
opinion of Eisenhower as
party leader; Eisenhower's trip to New York for Nixon's campaign;
Nixon's travels as
vice-president; Nixon's campaign strategies; final week telethon in
Detroit; 1960 election
night; question of tampered election results; Nixon's reaction to
losing the 1960
presidential election.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin,
June 19, 1967]